

What is claimed is:

1. An image on-demand transmitting device performing an image transmission by an on-demand request issued from a receiving side, comprising:
- 5 a unit obtaining an image;
- a buffer memory unit temporarily storing the image obtained by said image obtaining unit;
- 10 a quasi-moving image transmitting unit transmitting a quasi-moving image acquired by degrading a quality and a frame transmission rate of the image obtained by said image obtaining unit; and
- 15 a transmitting unit performing a predetermined process for an image read from said buffer memory unit, and for transmitting the image to the receiving side.
2. The image on-demand transmitting device according to claim 1, wherein
- 20 said transmitting unit reads a particular single image frame from said buffer memory unit, encodes the read frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.
- 25 3. The image on-demand transmitting device

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said transmitting unit encodes to a sharp image
only an image that is partially extracted from an

6. The image on-demand transmitting device
5 according to claim 5, wherein
which portion to be extracted from the image
frame read from said buffer memory unit is determined
by selecting a predetermined extraction pattern on
the receiving side.

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7. The image on-demand transmitting device
according to claim 1, wherein
serial numbers are assigned to respective image
frames of the quasi-moving image, and a serial number
15 is specified with a predetermined method on the
receiving side, so that a transmission request is
issued to said transmitting unit.

8. An image on-demand transmitting device
20 performing an image transmission by an on-demand
request issued from a receiving side, comprising:
an image obtaining unit obtaining an image;
a first buffer memory unit temporarily storing
the image obtained by said image obtaining unit;
25 a second buffer memory unit reading the image

stored in said first buffer memory unit and for storing the read image, by a request issued from the receiving side;

5 a quasi-moving image transmitting unit
transmitting a quasi-moving image acquired by
degrading a quality and a frame transmission rate of
the image obtained by said image obtaining unit; and

10 a controlling/transmitting unit making said
second buffer memory unit store the image read from
said first buffer memory unit by an on-demand request
issued from the receiving side, and for performing a
predetermined process for the image read from said
second buffer memory unit and transmitting the image
to the receiving side by a request issued from the
15 receiving side.

9. The image on-demand transmitting device according to claim 8, wherein

20 said controlling/transmitting unit reads a particular single image frame from said second buffer memory unit, encodes the read frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.

25 10. The image on-demand transmitting device

said controlling/transmitting unit reads a particular single image frame from said second buffer memory unit, encodes the read frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side, and at the same time, said controlling/transmitting unit sequentially reads a succeeding or preceding image frame, which is stored in said second buffer memory unit, encodes the read frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.

15 a thumbnail buffer memory unit putting into a thumbnail a quasi-moving image frame when a temporary storage request is issued from the receiving side to said second buffer memory unit, and for storing the thumbnail, wherein

25 12. The image on-demand transmitting device

said controlling/transmitting unit reads a plurality of particular image frames from said second buffer memory unit, generates a single image frame by
5 reducing and synthesizing the plurality of particular image frames, encodes the generated image frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.

(a) obtaining an image;
(b) temporarily storing the image obtained in
15 the step (a);

(d) performing a predetermined process for the
20 image stored in the step (b), and transmitting the
image to the receiving side, by an on-demand request
issued from the receiving side.

14. The image on-demand transmitting method
25 according to claim 13, wherein

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the step (d) encodes to a sharp image only an image that is partially extracted from the image frame read from the image stored in the step (b), and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.

10 which portion to be extracted from the image
frame read from the image stored in the step (b) is
determined by selecting a predetermined extraction
pattern on the receiving side.

serial numbers are assigned to respective image frames of the quasi-moving image, and a serial number is specified with a predetermined method on the receiving side, so that a transmission request is issued in the step (d).

25 request issued from a receiving side, comprising:

(a) obtaining an image;

(b) temporarily storing the image obtained in the step (a);

(c) reading the image stored in the step (b) and storing the read image, by a request issued from the receiving side;

(d) transmitting a quasi-moving image acquired by degrading a quality and a frame transmission rate of the image obtained in the step (a); and

(e) storing in the step (c) an image read from the image stored in the step (b) by an on-demand request issued from the receiving side, and performing a predetermined process for an image read from the image stored in the step (c) and transmitting the image to the receiving side by a request issued from the receiving side.

21. The image on-demand transmitting method according to claim 20, wherein

the step (e) reads a particular single image frame from the image stored in the step (c), encodes the read frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.

22. The image on-demand transmitting method

according to claim 20, wherein

the step (e) reads a particular single image frame from the image stored in the step (c), encodes the read frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side, and at the same time, the step (e) sequentially reads a succeeding or preceding image frame, which is stored in the step (c), encodes the read frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.

23. The image on-demand transmitting method according to 21 or 22, further comprising:

(f) putting into a thumbnail a quasi-moving image frame when a temporary storage request in the step (c) is issued from the receiving side, and storing the thumbnail, wherein

the receiving side identifies an image frame stored in the step (c) by specifying a thumbnail stored in the step (f).

24. The image on-demand transmitting method according to claim 20, wherein

the step (e) reads a plurality of particular image frames from the image stored in the step (b), generates a single image frame by reducing and

synthesizing the plurality of particular image frames, encodes the generated image frame to a sharp image, and transmits the encoded image to the receiving side.

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